UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

CIVIL ACTION NO.

DENNIS DIMON, Plaintiff	05	11073 REK	
vs.) <u>COMPLAINT</u>	
MICHAEL B. LATTI, LATASSOCIATES, LATTI & A LLP, METROPOLITAN LIIINSURANCE COMPANY, INSURANCE COMPANY, MORGAN STANLEY DW,	NDERSON M FE KEMPER and	AMOUNT SMIA	
Defendants	INIT	LOCAL RULE 4.1 WAIVER FORM MCF ISSUED TRODUCTION	,

1. This is a contract and malpractice action for monetary relief resulting from the premature cancellation of the plaintiff's structured settlement payments, which occurred on or about May 5, 2003 when the defendants ceased paying the settlement due the plaintiff as a result of a personal injury action in 1983. The plaintiff released the defendant shipowner in his personal injury action in consideration of a life annuity guaranteed for 20 years which the court approved. The plaintiff asserts a cause of action against the defendants based upon their breach of the settlement contract and for the breach of fiduciary duties by his former attorney.

JURISDICTION

2. Jurisdiction is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C., sec. 1332(a). Venue is proper in the

District Court of Massachusetts pursuant to 28 U.S.C., sec. 1391(c).

PARTIES

- The plaintiff, Dennis Dimon, is of legal age and resides in West Kingston, Rhode
 Island.
- 4. The defendant, Michael B. Latti, is now a resident of the State of Maine and a lawyer licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts who formerly resided in and practiced law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1983.
- 5. The defendant, Latti Associates, was a law firm created under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts by Michael B. Latti, with a principal place of business at 30-31 Union Wharf, Boston, Massachusetts.
- 6. The defendant, Latti & Anderson, LLP, is a law firm created under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with a principal place of business at 30-31 Union Wharf, Boston, Massachusetts and is the successor in interest to Latti Associates.
- 7. The defendant, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company is an insurance company with a principal place of business in New York, New York, and regularly conducts business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- 8. The defendant, Kemper Insurance Company is an insurance company with a principal place of business in Long Grove, Illinois, which regularly conducts business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- 9. The defendant, Morgan Stanley, is a brokerage company with a principal place of business in New York, New York, and regularly conducts business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 10. In 1981, the plaintiff was severely injured while serving as a member of the crew aboard the F/V/ JENNY C, resulting in the loss of his eye.
- 11. On or about February 4, 1983, following a trial, a jury awarded the plaintiff \$710,000 for his injuries against the defendant, Jenny C., Inc.
- 12. The plaintiff was represented at all times for the trial and subsequent settlement by Latti Associates, operated under the authority of Michael B. Latti.
- 13. Latti & Anderson, LLP is the successor in interest to Latti Associates.
- 14. Following the verdict, the parties entered into a settlement agreement, approved by the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island and a guardian ad litem appointed by the court, providing the plaintiff with a lump sum payment of \$250,000 and an annuity for the life of the plaintiff and guaranteed for twenty (20) years which would continue for the life of the plaintiff. The annuity would pay the plaintiff a set amount (beginning at \$1,450.45) each month with the amount increasing by three (3) percent each year.
- 15. Prior to the settlement the court appointed Leonard Decof, Esquire as guardian ad litem to review the settlement and to report to the court.
- 16. The guardian ad litem was appointed by the court due to the plaintiff's inability to read or understand the settlement contract and was an extra measure by the court to protect the plaintiff even though he had separate counsel through Latti Associates.
- 17. American Motorists Insurance Company (now Kemper Insurance Company) applied for the annuity.

- Dean Witter, Inc.(now Morgan Stanley), acting as the agent and broker for American
 Motorists Insurance Company, arranged for the lifetime annuity.
- 19. The defendant Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (formerly Charter Security Insurance Company), provided the annuity beginning June 5, 1983.
- 20. On or about June 14, 1983, Charter Security Life Insurance (now Metropolitan Life Insurance Company) informed Dean Witter, Inc. (now Morgan Stanley) that a clerical error had been made on the annuity contract and that the contract should have read for 240 months (20 years) rather than for life with a guarantee of twenty (20) years.
- 21. On or about September 26, 1983, Charter Security Life Insurance (now Metropolitan Life Insurance Company) informed American Motorists (now Kemper Insurance) and Latti Associates of the clerical error described in paragraph 20.
- 22. A supplementary document changing the contract from life, guaranteed for twenty (20) years to twenty (20) years only was forwarded to each of the insurance companies and Latti Associates.
- 23. The plaintiff was not advised of this change nor was the court or *guardian ad litem* informed of the alleged clerical error upon which the plaintiff, court, and *guardian ad litem* had relied in accepting the settlement agreement.
- 24. On May 5, 2003, the defendant Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, stopped payment on the plaintiff's settlement, stating that the annuity was only for a fixed period of twenty years rather than for the life of the plaintiff.
- 25. Upon the suspension of payments, the plaintiff attempted to contact his former lawyer at Latti Associates, now Latti & Anderson, but was informed that no file

- 33. The defendant failed to act reasonably in not informing the plaintiff of the alleged clerical error changing the terms of the annuity.
- 34. Due to the actions of the defendant, the plaintiff suffered financial loss.

- That this Court, under Count II, enter judgment in favor of the plaintiff. 1.
- 2. For such other relief as this Court deems appropriate.

COUNT III

(Dennis Dimon v. Michael B. Latti -Breach of Contract)

- 35. Paragraphs 1-34 are realleged and incorporated by reference.
- 36. The plaintiff and the defendant entered into a contract for the defendant to provide legal representation for injuries suffered by the plaintiff in a fishing boat accident.
- 37. The defendant breached this contract by failing to provide competent legal representation, in failing to inform the plaintiff of an alleged clerical error changing the plaintiff's settlement agreement, and failing to ensure that the plaintiff understood the alleged changes to the settlement agreement.
- 38. The plaintiff suffered financial losses as a result of the defendant's breach of contract.

- 1. That this Court, under Count III, enter judgment in favor of the plaintiff against the defendant for breach of contract.
- 2. For such other relief as this Court deems appropriate.

COUNT IV

(Dennis Dimon v. Latti Associates-Breach of Fiduciary Duty)

- 39. Paragraphs 1-38 are realleged and incorporated by reference.
- 40. A lawyer has a duty to act in the best interest of his client and not to act in any way adverse or contrary to the interests of the client.
- 41. The plaintiff relied upon the defendant law firm for advice, counsel, and information in order to make an informed decision prior to entering into any settlement agreement whereby the plaintiff would forfeit his rights to future compensation for his injuries.
- 42. Due to the defendant's breach, the plaintiff has suffered financial loss.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

- 1. That this Court, under Count IV, enter judgment in favor of the plaintiff against the defendant for breach of fiduciary duty.
- 2. For such other relief as this Court deems appropriate.

COUNT V

(Dennis Dimon v. Latti Associates -Negligence)

- 43. Paragraphs 1-42 are realleged and incorporated by reference.
- 44. A lawyer has a duty to act with reasonable care and to use the skill of a reasonably competent lawyer in representing a client.
- 45. The defendant failed to act reasonably in not informing the plaintiff and ensuring that the plaintiff understood the changes to the settlement agreement.
- 46. Due to the actions of the defendant, the plaintiff suffered financial loss.

- 1. That this Court, under Count V, enter judgment in favor of the plaintiff.
- 2. For such other relief as this Court deems appropriate.

COUNT VI

(Dennis Dimon v. Latti Associates -Breach of Contract)

- 47. Paragraphs 1-46 are realleged and incorporated by reference.
- 48. The plaintiff and the defendant entered into a contract for whereby the defendant was to provide legal representation for injuries suffered by the plaintiff in a fishing accident.
- 49. The defendant breached this contract by failing to provide competent legal representation, failing to inform the plaintiff of changes to the plaintiff's settlement agreement, and failing to ensure that the plaintiff understood the changes to the settlement agreement.
- 50. The plaintiff suffered financial losses as a result of the defendant's breach of contract.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

- 1. That this Court, under Count VI, enter judgment in favor of the plaintiff against the defendant for breach of contract.
- 2. For such other relief as this Court deems appropriate.

COUNT VII

(Dennis Dimon v. Latti & Anderson LLP -Breach of Fiduciary Duty)

Paragraphs 1-50 are realleged and incorporated by reference. 51.

- 52. A lawyer has a duty to act in the best interest of his client and not to act in any way adverse or contrary to the interests of the client.
- 53. The plaintiff relied upon the defendant for advice, counsel, and information in order to make an informed decision prior to entering into any settlement agreement whereby the plaintiff would forfeit his rights to future compensation for his injuries.
- 54. Due to the defendant's breach, the plaintiff has suffered financial loss.

- That this Court, under Count VII, enter judgment in favor of the plaintiff
 against the defendant for breach of fiduciary duty
- 2. For such other relief as this Court deems appropriate.

COUNT VIII

(Dennis Dimon v. Latti & Anderson LLP - Negligence)

- 55. Paragraphs 1-54 are realleged and incorporated by reference.
- 56. A lawyer has a duty to act with reasonable care and to use the skill of a reasonably competent lawyer in representing a client.
- 57. The defendant failed to act reasonably in not informing the plaintiff and ensuring that the plaintiff understood the changes to the settlement agreement.
- 58. Due to the actions of the defendant, the plaintiff suffered financial loss.

- 1. That this Court, under Count VII, enter judgment in favor of the plaintiff.
- 2. For such other relief as this Court deems appropriate.

COUNT IX

(Dennis Dimon v. Latti & Anderson LLP -Breach of Contract)

- 59. Paragraphs 1-58 are realleged and incorporated by reference.
- 60. The plaintiff and the defendant entered into a contract for whereby the defendant was to provide legal representation for injuries suffered by the plaintiff in a fishing accident.
- The defendant breached this contract by failing to provide competent legal representation, failing to inform the plaintiff of changes to the plaintiff's settlement agreement, and failing to ensure that the plaintiff understood the changes to the settlement agreement.
- 62. The plaintiff suffered financial losses as a result of the defendant's breach of contract.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

- 1. That this Court, under Count IX, enter judgment in favor of the plaintiff against the defendant for breach of contract.
- 2. For such other relief as this Court deems appropriate.

COUNT X

(Dennis Dimon v. Metropolitan Life Insurance Company -Breach of Contract)

- 63. Paragraphs 1-62 are realleged and incorporated by reference.
- 64. The plaintiff and the defendant entered into a contract whereby the defendant was to provide a lifetime annuity guaranteed for twenty (20) years in exchange for the plaintiff releasing all claims for injuries suffered by the plaintiff in a fishing accident.
- 65. The defendant breached this contract by altering the agreement after the contract was

- signed and approved by the court and for failing to perform the contract.
- 66. The plaintiff suffered financial losses as a result of the defendant's breach of contract.

- 1. That this Court, under Count X, enter judgment in favor of the plaintiff against the defendant for breach of contract.
- 2. For such other relief as this Court deems appropriate.

COUNT XI

(Dennis Dimon v. Metropolitan Life Insurance Company -Negligent Misrepresentation)

- 67. Paragraphs 1-66 are realleged and incorporated by reference.
- 68. The plaintiff and the defendant entered into a contract whereby the defendant was to provide a lifetime annuity guaranteed for twenty (20) years in exchange for the plaintiff releasing all claims for injuries suffered by the plaintiff in a fishing accident.
- 69. The defendant negligently misrepresented the terms of the contract, stating that the contract was for life, guaranteed for 20 years.
- 70. The plaintiff relied on the representation of counsel and this defendant as manifested in the original contract approved by the court and suffered financial losses as a result of the defendant's negligent misrepresentation in altering the contract.

- 1. That this Court, under Count XI, enter judgment in favor of the plaintiff against the defendant.
- 2. For such other relief as this Court deems appropriate.

(Dennis Dimon v. Kemper Insurance Company -Breach of Contract)

- 71. Paragraphs 1-70 are realleged and incorporated by reference.
- 72. The plaintiff and the defendant entered into a contract whereby the defendant was to provide a lifetime annuity guaranteed for twenty (20) years in exchange for the plaintiff releasing all claims for injuries suffered by the plaintiff in a fishing accident.
- 73. The defendant breached this contract by altering the agreement after the contract was signed and approved by the court and for failing to perform the contract.
- 74. The plaintiff suffered financial losses as a result of the defendant's breach of contract.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

- That this Court, under Count XII, enter judgment in favor of the plaintiff
 against the defendant for breach of contract.
- 2. For such other relief as this Court deems appropriate.

COUNT XIII

(Dennis Dimon v. Kemper Insurance Company - Negligent Misrepresentation)

- 75. Paragraphs 1-74 are realleged and incorporated by reference.
- 76. The plaintiff and the defendant entered into a contract whereby the defendant was to provide a lifetime annuity guaranteed for twenty (20) years in exchange for the plaintiff releasing all claims for injuries suffered by the plaintiff in a fishing accident.
- 77. The defendant negligently misrepresented the terms of the contract, stating that the contract was for life, guaranteed for 20 years.
- 78. The plaintiff relied on the representation of counsel and this defendant as manifested

in the original contract approved by the court and suffered financial losses as a result of the defendant's negligent misrepresentation in altering the contract.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

- 1. That this Court, under Count XIII, enter judgment in favor of the plaintiff against the defendant.
- 2. For such other relief as this Court deems appropriate.

COUNT XIV

(Dennis Dimon v. Morgan Stanley -Breach of Contract)

- 79. Paragraphs 1-78 are realleged and incorporated by reference.
- 80. The plaintiff and the defendant entered into a contract whereby the defendant was to provide a lifetime annuity guaranteed for twenty (20) years in exchange for the plaintiff releasing all claims for injuries suffered by the plaintiff in a fishing accident.
- 81. The defendant breached this contract by altering the agreement after the contract was signed and approved by the court and for failing to perform the contract.
- 82. The plaintiff suffered financial losses as a result of the defendant's breach of contract.

- 1. That this Court, under Count XIV, enter judgment in favor of the plaintiff against the defendant for breach of contract.
- 2. For such other relief as this Court deems appropriate.

COUNT XV

(Dennis Dimon v. Morgan Stanley -Breach of Fiduciary Duty)

- 83. Paragraphs 1-81 are realleged and incorporated by reference.
- 84. A broker has a duty to act in the best interest of his client and not to act in any way adverse or contrary to the interests of the client.
- 85. The plaintiff relied upon the defendant for advice, counsel, and information in order to make an informed decision prior to entering into any settlement agreement whereby the plaintiff would forfeit his rights to future compensation for his injuries.
- 86. Due to the defendant's breach, the plaintiff has suffered financial loss.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

- 1. That this Court, under Count XV, enter judgment in favor of the plaintiff against the defendant for breach of fiduciary duty
- 2. For such other relief as this Court deems appropriate.

PLAINTIFF DEMANDS TRIAL BY JURY ON ALL COUNTS.

Respectfully submitted By his attornev

DATED: <u>MAY 20, 2005</u>

David B. Kaplan, Esq.

THE KAPLAN/BOND GROUP

88 Black Falcon Avenue

Suite 301

Boston, MA 02210

(617) 261-0080

BBO #258540

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT-DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

2.	CATEGORY IN WHICH THE CASE BELONGS BASED UPON THE NUMBERED NATURE OF SUIT CODE LISTED ON THE CIVE							
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SJS 44 (Rev. 11/04)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Dennis Dimon		DEFENDANTS Michael B.	Latti, Latti As	sociates, Latti &		
(b) County of Residence of	of First Listed Plaintiff Washington, RI	Kemper Ins County of Residence of	Co. and Morg of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES			
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David B. Kaplan	Address, and Telephone Number) Ave, Suite 301, Boston, MA	Attorneys (If Known)				
II. BASIS OF JURISD		III. CITIZENSHIP OF P	PRINCIPAL PARTIES	Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff		
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	U.S. Government D 3 Federal Question		(For Diversity Cases Only) PTF DEF Citizen of This State DI I Incorporated or Principal Place G Business In This State			
2 U.S. Government Defendant	(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)		2 Incorporated and P of Business In A			
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IV. NATURE OF SUIT	(Place an "X" in One Box Only) TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANK UPTCY	OTHER STATUTES		
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you 28 USC 1332 Brief description of cause: Breach of Contract,			lisrepresentation		
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTIO UNDER F.R.C.P. 23			if demanded in complaint:		
VIII. RELATED CASS	E(S) (See instructions): JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER			
5/23/05 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	SIGNATURE OF A	Hapley B Kapley				
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